

Structure Staple Bend Tunnel		Canal Allegheny Portage RR	HAER/CEHR Condition GOOD;CLOSED
State/Province <u>Pennsylvania</u> County <u>CAMBRIA</u>		Designer(s) Sylvester Welch	
City/Town <u>NE of Johnstown</u>		Contractor/Builder J. and E. Appleton	
Street _____		Source of Material _____	
Associated Waterway <u>Little Conemaugh River</u>		D A T E S O F C O N S T R U C T I O N	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP <u>GEISTOWN</u>		Start _____	Rebuilding _____
UTM Coordinates <u>17.682120.4469620</u>		Completion <u>1833</u>	Abandoned _____
History & Use in Service; Use Since Abandonment: <p>"Next to the Conemaugh Viaduct, the tunnel at the Staple Bend of the Conemaugh, 4 miles east of Johnstown, attracted great attention. It was the first railroad tunnel built in America, and stands (1897) alone amidst the grandeur of the mountains as a silent witness of the deeds performed by the Commonwealth in its efforts to annihilate distance. It is 901 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 19 feet high within the arch. Its cost was \$37,498.84½ cent.</p> <p>Tunnel was first proposed as part of the route in S.H. Long and Major John Wilson's 1830 report to cut a mile from the route which otherwise would be required by the bend of the River</p>			
Description (Visible Remains at the site): <p>16-foot bore through solid rock, facings of cut stone at its ends, and most of its 901-foot length naturally arched. Like the Little Conemaugh Viaduct (4 miles east and completed in the same year), "it challenged the admiration of the public 'for boldness of design and strength and beauty of execution'" (Hubertis Cummings, Historic PA leaflet #19)</p>			
Other works or events associated with site:			
Present Property Owners:		Location of Deed Description:	
Bibliography (Published, unpublished mss, maps, photographs): <p>Baumgardner, Mahlon J. and Hoenstine, Floyd G., <u>The Allegheny Portage Railroad 1834-1854, Pennsylvania Society Sons of the American Revolution, 1952.</u> Welch, Sylvester. "Report on the Allegheny Portage Railroad." [1833]. Reprint. York, PA: American Canal & Transportation Center, 1975.</p>			
Agencies, Individuals Interested in Preservation/Restoration:		National Register/CEHR, Other Recognition:	
Investigation made by: Address:			Date: (P.H. STOTT 6/xii/75
RETURN TO:			

A sketch map or illustration of the site should be included on the reverse.